

MAJOR DUTIES

Serves as boatswain aboard a seagoing hopper dredge. The main function of the dredge is to maintain entrances, estuaries, harbors and channels. The dredge is highly automated and equipped with sophisticated electro-hydraulic and electronic equipment to perform the dredging function. As the supervisor of the deck crew, incumbent is responsible for the planning, assigning crew to jobs, directing the maintenance, upkeep and repair of deck machinery, dredging equipment and related systems, rigging, steel work, ship's gear, etc. Also immediately overseas mooring, anchoring, boat launching and retrieving, dredging ranges markings and lighting, cargo loading and unloading and other similar shipboard operation.

1. Supervises activities of deck crew which consists of an assistant Boatswain, Marine Mechanics and Deckhands. Mechanics performs all scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance and repair of dredging machinery including: dredge pumps, dragarms, dragarm operating gear, swell compensators, suction and discharge piping, hopper distribution equipment, hopper door operating gear, jetting and washdown equipment, adjustable weir equipment, etc. Work is primarily mechanical in nature involving the servicing, modular exchange, testing, and repair of pumps, motors, hydraulic system components (pumps, valves, cylinders, etc.) nuclear density gauges, winches, automatic valves, and gear sets. Performs maintenance on the electrical and electromechanical transducers, transmitters, receivers, solenoids, limit switches and actuators that are associated with the automatic dredging systems. In addition supervises dredge workers in the handling and fastening of hawsers and mooring lines; operation of deck crane; caring for, renewing, and splicing rope; light rigging; chipping, scraping and painting of dredge; maintenance and repair of deck machinery; repair of handrails, and walkways; loading, and unloading supplies, and general housekeeping. Operates ship's launch and vehicle as required.
2. Determines supplies and tools required for maintenance and repair of deck machinery and related deck operations and notifies supervisor of needs. Is responsible for deck equipment and operating supplies, storeroom, issues tools and supplies and periodically takes inventories to project needs and assure adequacy of supplies. Maintains or oversees the maintenance of lifesaving and firefighting equipment, shop's gear and rigging.
3. Directs and assists subordinates in the interpretation and performance of complex jobs and those requiring extensive emergency repair operations. Uses acetylene and electric welding equipment to perform simplified types of structural welding throughout the vessel. Uses cutting torches in removing metal materials, and in cutting parts to size and shape. Performs the more difficult rigging. Directs others in making slings and rigs for heavy lifts, and in splicing cables and ropes. Oversees the cutting, sewing, and repair of canvas, and tarpaulins in making boat covers and cargo slings. Operates ship's launch and vehicle as required. Accompanies Chief Mate or other designated officer in the periodic inspection of quarters, storage and work areas to insure they are maintained in a clean, orderly and safe condition.

4. Within the framework of general assignments from the Chief Mate establishes priorities and prepares work schedules. Performs a variety of personnel management functions such as selecting employees, evaluating performance, providing informal recommendations on promotions, reassignments, step increases, performance awards, disciplinary actions, training needs, etc. Resolves informal complaints, explains work and performance standards, provides on-the-job training, and identifies and recommends additional training needs, etc. Supports equal opportunity for all employees supervised and instructs personnel in safe work methods and in proper utilization of safety and emergency equipment. Insures that subordinate personnel comply with all pertinent safety regulations. Trains subordinates in safe work methods and utilization of all prescribed safety equipment. When assigned, the incumbent remains aboard during tie-up periods.

Performs other duties as assigned.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGES

Must be able to lead and direct workers. Must be able to lay out and check completed work. Must have a knowledge of deck operations, machinery and equipment on hopper dredges. In addition to the knowledge to oversee the work of deckhands also must be able to effectively technically supervise marine machinery mechanics. Must have a knowledge of welding techniques, equipment and materials. The incumbent is required to possess a U.S. Coast Guard Motorboat Operator and AB certificates. Must have the ability to use a lead in the procedures associated with living on a vessel, such as firefighting, first aid and use of life saving equipment.

RESPONSIBILITY

Works under the general supervision of the Assistant Master or Mate who makes work assignments and outlines overall work requirements. Incumbent is relied upon to control work operations and to assure that high quality work is accomplished safely and in a timely manner. Work is reviewed for efficient and economical accomplishment within priorities and controls received. Work is spot-checked.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Works mostly outside exposed to various weather conditions. Possibility of falling or slipping on wet decks, ladders, etc. Possibility of drowning exists in the case of collision or more especially, when working over the side. Subject to dust, grease and soiling of clothing and skin surface.

PHYSICAL EFFORTS

Moderate to heavy lifting is typically required. Must possess sufficient agility to climb ladders in all sea conditions and to work in close quarters